

for herself the so essential organ which they
have and she
has not,

The acuteness of castration dread, whether in
the boy's or
the girl's form, will obviously depend upon the
whole course
of the previous sexual history, and not alone
upon genital
experience. If, for example, the child's
experiences at the
breast have been satisfactory (whether for
internal or external
reasons, or both), he is by so much less likely to
develop

over-severe castration anxiety later on. Where
he remains
unsatisfied, or is badly handled in the
weaning situation,
he is all the more likely to suffer acute
castration dread in
the genital phase. On the other hand, a
genital threat, or
other traumatic experience at the time when
his genital
wishes are most acute (say round about 2-4
years) may itself
serve to re-awaken earlier oral anxieties.

In the incident on p. 167, the little girl N.
expressed her
determination to be a boy by cutting off her
own hair. On
the surface this might seem to contradict the
idea of castra-
tion, but the intention is obviously to make
herself more
like a boy—things that are made equal in one
respect may
then prove equal in another respect. Besides,
there is all
the difference in the world between, on the one
hand, actively
cutting one's own hair off oneself and having
the instrument
to do it with, and having it *done to* one by
someone else, and
especially by the mother, who is treated as so
much of a rival,
and whose attacks are feared as a return for the
child's own
hostilities to her.

When considering the theme of family play, I
pointed out
the way in which, with certain boys, even their
overt behaviour
occasionally shows a strong identification with
the mother.
This identification was particularly marked
with one or two

of the children in the school, and especially Frank. The general description of Frank and several of the incidents included here will make this quite plain. Dan, too, in the early period of the school, showed this identification very strongly. In the cases of Tommy and Conrad, it was comparatively sporadic.

This attitude in the boy is by no means always apparent in ordinary life, at any rate after four years of age. Usually it is relatively hidden from observers and largely unconscious in the boy himself. The analysis of young boys has, however, shown it to be a universal and comparatively early phase.